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State of Union

$58.3 Billion Needed To Maintain Strength

President Johnson pledged the U.S. will stay in Vietnam "until aggression has stopped" and vowed to continue Great Society domestic programs in his State of the Union Message to Congress Jan. 12.

Repeating his desire for peace, the President defended the presence of U.S. forces in Vietnam and reaffirmed this country's commitment.

To maintain strength and keep commitments, the President said $58.3 billion will be needed in FY67.

Noting that current U.S. military strength in RVN is 190,000, President Johnson said, "We will give our fighting men what they must have; every gun, every dollar, and every decision—whatever the cost and whatever the challenge."

Discussing his efforts in the "search for peace," the President said the U.S. would stand by the Geneva Agreeements of 1954 and 1962.

Restating willingness to meet at any conference table, discuss any proposals, and consider the views of any group, the President explained, "So far we have received no response to prove either success or failure," of the peace effort.

On other matters, the President announced a FY67 federal budget of $112.8 billion, the largest in history. However, he noted that increased revenues would reduce the budget deficit to its lowest level in years—only $1.8 billion.

In his third State of the Union Message since taking office, President Johnson asked Congress for continued support in the areas of health and education; poverty; foreign aid; foreign trade; beautification; crime; civil rights; and streamlined civil government, including increased office terms for U.S. Representatives from two to four years.

Although next fiscal year's Vietnam expenditures are estimated to increase by $5.8 billion, President Johnson said all other expenditures in the entire Federal budget will rise by only $.6 billion. He credited these savings to stringent cost conscious economies started by the Defense Department, which later extended throughout the government.

The President said it is desirable that automobile and certain telephone excise tax reductions be restored because of increased military expenditures.

CHIEF OF STATE VISITS — Lt. Gen. Nguyen Van Thieu, Chief of State and Chairman, National Leadership Committee, RVN, accompanied by Col. Robert A. Ackerly, USAF, Commander, 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing, inspects airmen at Bien Hoa AB.

U.S. Actions in 1965 Prove War Many-Sided in Vietnam

During 1965, the war in Vietnam was a many-sided affair, as shown by a year-end information roundup released in Saigon by the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam.

U.S. and RVN forces dropped more than 77 million leaflets, 340,000 newspapers and 20,000 gifts into North Vietnam. Under the "open arms" program, more than 11,000 military and civilian Vietnamese returned to government control. U.S. armed forces gave medical treatment to more than 4.5 million Vietnamese under the Medical Civic Action Program during 1965. They also assisted in distributing to the Vietnamese people 106,000 tons of foodstuffs and more than $100,000 worth of other commodities, donated by various relief services.

There were more than 2,400 military civic action construction projects, ranging from bridge and school building, to road repair and drainage control. U.S. military units and individuals contributed to the support of many orphanages, schools and dispensaries. *(More facts and statistics on "Vietnam 1965" are contained in "Background for Commanders," Page 3, this issue.)*

February Draft Call Set for 29,400

Department of Defense has asked the Selective Service System to provide Armed Forces Induction Stations with 29,400 men in February 1966. Army will get 26,400 inductees and Marine Corps 3,000.

Washington Memos

MILITARY AIRLIFT COMMAND, composed of some 95,000 military and civilian personnel, will jump to 100,000 later this year. Increase includes reassignment and retraining of certain Strategic Air Command personnel whose activities will be cut back with a planned phase-out of older model SAC aircraft.

RECENTLY DEVELOPED RECREATION and athletic kits sent to RVN proved so popular 40 more will be sent and requests for 300 have been received. Recreation and Education Division, Army Adjutant General's Office, sent 10 kits to RVN for testing under wartime conditions.

NINE YEARS AGO, Strategic Air Command jet bomber #53-394, "Lucky Lady III," completed record setting non-stop, around-the-world flight in 45 hours, 19 minutes. "Lucky Lady" became a museum piece Jan. 6. She was given to new Air Force Museum, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

NEWEST U.S. ANTARCTIC base, Plateau Station in the heart of Queen Maud Land, is growing steadily, according to reports from Deep Freeze observers. Summer camp construction is well underway and permanent facilities are beginning to rise on the surface of the more than two-mile-thick ice of the Polar Plateau.

THE U.S. NAVY AND ARMY have joined with the National Institute of Health in conducting a survey in Ethiopia to study the prevalence of onchocerciasis, an infection caused by a worm. The team conducting the two-week study will also explore the possibilities for conducting research projects in malaria and other endemic diseases.

THE ICE BOWL played New Year's Day at Byrd Station saw the sailors "snow" the scientists, 14-0, in one of Antarctica's major sporting events. The game was played approximately 600 miles from the South Pole on 8,000 foot thick ice, with UPI coverage by "ham" radio and Deep Freeze reporters and photographers on the sidelines.

AIR FORCE MAJ. Thomas C. Pinckney is first officer of his grade to participate in State and Defense Officer Exchange Program. Maj. Pinckney will serve two years in office of Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Politico-Defense Affairs. About 25 officers, nearly all colonels, have served with State Department since program began in 1961.

COMMANDER ROBERT C. MANDEVILLE, USN, Executive Officer, Navy Attack Squadron 65, Oceana, Va., is first pilot to log more than 1,000 flight hours in Grumman A-6A. Duration of flight was 3.3 hours, bringing his total to 1001.1. A-6A is an all-weather attack aircraft, capable of carrying greater weapons payload than any other plane of its type now in service.

ARMY'S 145th AVIATION Bn. has been awarded its second Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, RVN's highest combat award. It was presented by Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky for unit's outstanding helicopter support of combat operations in four cited battles.

ARMY-AIR FORCE Motion Picture Service has opened a regional office in Saigon to improve program administration within RVN. Office manager is David A. Bochkor, former assistant manager, New York Regional Office. He is responsible to AAFMPS-Pacific, Tokyo.

SUPERB IS THE word used by MAC Commander Gen. Howell M. Estes Jr. in describing AF Reserve and Guard personnel helping meet increased airlift demands to the Pacific area. General Estes also praised commercial carriers, saying they have "performed outstandingly."

NEW METHOD FOR steering solid propellant rocket motors developed by Lockheed Propulsion Co. Known as "Lockseal," new movable rocket nozzle steered supersonic rocket exhaust gases in two successful test firings.

500,000TH HOUR OF safe flying for 1405th Aeromedical Transport Wing was passed Jan. 3. Flying safety record culminates more than eight years flying by mission and support aircraft of Wing.

AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, Washington, D.C., has awarded Special Air Warfare Center's 1st Air Commando Wing two Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards. Both Awards go to Detachment 6 (Thailand).

ROME AIR DEVELOPMENT Center, Griffiss AFB, N.Y., realized over $8.5 million savings through its Cost Reduction Program last year. Figure was released by Center's Management Analysis Section Jan. 8.

COAST GUARD LORAN Station, Molokai, Hawaii, closed Dec. 31 after 13 years service. Station was established as relay between Loran stations on French Frigate Shoals and Hawaii. Conversion of Shoals stations to higher power made Molokai unit obsolete.

AIR FORCE EC-135 Stratolifters are serving as airborne command posts in Pacific. If ground communications in Hawaii were disrupted, staff officers aboard the planes would direct operations of forces in Pacific, including air operations in RVN.

THIRTY-FIVE MARINES and 28 German shepherds undergoing training at Army's 26th Scout Dog Platoon, Ft. Benning, Ga. Group is first from other services trained there.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Background for Commanders

Vietnam 1965

U.S. participation in the Vietnam war increased steadily throughout 1965. Total military strength grew from about 23,000 as of Jan. 1, 1965, to approximately 181,000 at year's end. RVN armed forces increased from about 559,500 to approximately 679,000. Enemy military strength rose from about 103,000 to an estimated 230,000 by Dec. 31.

As troop strength increased, the war's pace quickened. More than 1,300 U.S. troops and some 11,000 RVN forces were killed in action, while the enemy lost more than 34,000 men killed and almost 6,000 captured. There were 28 combat operations in which more than 200 Viet Cong (VC) were killed, but more than 28,000 incidents were initiated by the VC and reported during the year.

The U.S. and RVN Air Force flew close to 12,000 strike sorties into North Vietnam (NVN) and more than 60,000 within the Republic of Vietnam. Navy and Marine Corps, both carrier and land based, struck at NVN in more than 6,600 sorties. They also supported operations in RVN, flying more than 39,000 sorties. However, more than 160 U.S. planes were lost over NVN and some 80 went down in the south. Surface-to-air missiles (SAMs) accounted for 10 planes downed in NVN. Air Force flew 13,500 search and rescue sorties, saving 162 persons.

An economic boom accompanied military expansion. Planned U.S. construction projects in RVN at year's end were valued at nearly $1 billion. Petroleum consumption rose from 250,000 barrels in January to more than one million per month in December. Imports by ship into RVN rose 800 percent while intercoastal shipping doubled from the January tonnage figure of 25,000. Civilian personnel working on military construction projects totaled only a few thousand in January but were over 20,000 at the end of the year.

Chronology

Jan. 1:—U.S. military strength in RVN is 23,000; 1—31: highest VC monthly losses since 1961 reported.

Feb. 7: First U.S. air strike against North Vietnam hits Dong Hoi; 8: Pres. Johnson orders withdrawal of U.S. dependents; 10: VC blow up U.S. BEQ at Qui Nhon; 16: Largest VC weapons cache of war seized at Vung Ro Bay.

March 4: First USAF planes are shot down by MIGs over NVN; 9: First USMC infantry (3rdBn., 9thMar.) lands at Da Nang; 30: U.S. Embassy in Saigon damaged by VC explosives.

May 11: VC attack provincial capital of Song Be; 16: Bien Hoa AB rocked by series of accidental explosions; 29—June 3: Major battle around Quang Ngai city.

June 1: U.S. military strength in RVN 52,000; 8: 1stBn., Royal Australian Regt. arrives; 9-12: Heavy casualties on both sides in Dong Xoai battle; 17: First MIGs shot down by USN over NVN; 18: First B-52 bomber raid in RVN; 25: Several VC battalions attack ARVN battalion at Duc Hoa.

July 7: 8,000 more Marines land at Da Nang and Qui Nhon; 15: MACV confirms presence of PAVN 101st Regt. in RVN; 17: B-52 bombers support ground operation; 24: First U.S. aircraft shot down by SAM over NVN; 27: U.S. aircraft hit two SAM sites northwest of Hanoi; 30: U.S. military strength in RVN 80,000.

Operation Starlight

Aug. 9: Four USAF B-57s presented to RVN Air Force; 18-24: Marines conduct Operation Starlight south of Chu Lai; 24: VC mortar attack on Bien Hoa airfield damages 49 aircraft.

Sept. 7-10: U.S. and RVN Marines in Operation Piranha south of Chu Lai; 18: First elements of 1st CavDiv. land at Qui Nhon; 23-30: Heavy VC losses at Phu Co outpost along Highway One.

Oct. 8: First elements of Capital ROK Div. arrive; 17: USN jets destroy first mobile SAM site in NVN; 19-31: Battle of Plei Me special forces camp; 27: VC attack USMC air installations at Da Nang and Chu Lai.

Nov. 1-12: 1st CavDiv. battle west of Plei Me; 8: 173rd Airborne Brig. in major engagement in Zone "D;" 14-19: Battle of Ia Drang Valley biggest U.S. engagement of war.

Dec. 1: 1,038 VC incidents in week ending this date; 2: USS Enterprise begins first combat; 4: Terrorist bombing of Metropole BEQ in Saigon; 15: USAF hits Uong Bi thermal power plant near Hai Phong; 25: VC breaks own and U.S./RVN Christmas ceasefire; 31: U.S. military strength in RVN approximates 181,000.

Year-End Military Strengths

Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces (RVNAF), 679,000. Breakdown — Regular, 565,000; Civilian Irregular Defense Group, 27,500; National Police, 52,500; Combat Youth, 34,000.

United States Armed Forces, 181,392. Breakdown — Army, 111,000; Navy, 9,500; Marine Corps, 38,500; Air Force, 22,000; Coast Guard, 250.

Third Nation Forces, 22,550. Breakdown — Australia (one reinforced battalion), 1,500; New Zealand (one artillery battery), 300; Republic of Korea, 20,750.

Viet Cong, 175,000-245,000. Breakdown — Hard Core (regular forces), 75-85,000; Paramilitary (irregular forces), 100-120,000; Political Cadre, 40,000.

Army Needs Volunteers For Language Courses

A demand exists for Army volunteers to attend language training at the Defense Language Institute's West Coast Branch, Presidio of Monterey, Calif., and East Coast Branch, Washington, D.C.

Courses are available in Arabic, Chinese Mandarin, Czech, Dutch, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Slovenian, Spanish, Thai, Turkish, Ukranian, Vietnamese, Hausa, Hebrew, Hindi, Lingala, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Rumanian, Malayan, Swahili, Tagalog and Burmese.

Six Appointed to Defense Industry Advisory Council

Deputy Secretary of Defense Cyrus R. Vance, Chairman, Defense Industry Advisory Council, has announced appointment of six new members to replace retiring members and fill two vacancies.

New members are: Fred J. Borch, President, General Electric Co.; Kermit Gordon, Vice President, Brookings Institution; Donald H. Holden, President, Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Co.; Daniel J. Haughton, President, Lockheed Aircraft Corp.; Roger Lewis, President, General Dynamics Corp.; and Noel B. McLean, Chairman of the Board, EDO Corp.

SPEEDY AWARD — Maj. James E. Gillis, USMC, holds the Silver Star he received within 24 hours after rescuing five men surrounded by Viet Cong during Operation Harvest Moon. The Marine Observation Squadron-2 pilot received the medal from Lt. Gen. Victor H. Krulak, CG, FMFPac, who was visiting Da Nang at the time.

Target Missiles Set Marks

Firebee target missiles have established two new capability marks at Army's White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

A Firebee, carrying two 500-pound external stores structures on wing pylons, attained 42,500 feet altitude for a 45-minute flight. Another Ryan Aeronautical Company Firebee set an all-time flight endurance mark by staying aloft 115 minutes.

Certain Draftees Reenlist For Schooling of Choice

Certain draftees are getting service schooling of their choice in exchange for a three year reenlistment under an Army program handled by personnel at each of Army's eight reception stations.

Army recruiting specialists select qualified inductees during the initial processing stage and sell them on "long term" schooling in exchange for an additional year of service.

The program works two ways. It allows officials to fill school quotas in critical skills insuring that overall Army training requirements and needs are met. The inductee gets valuable schooling which normally would not be available to persons serving for only two years.

Automatic Field Telephone System Under Development

The Electronic Systems Division, Air Force Systems Command, has begun development of an advanced automatic radio telephone system for military use in forward areas.

Designed to be man-carried, the system will be built to permit air dropping and operation under the most severe weather conditions in almost any climate.

Each system will provide for 14 simultaneous conversations with up to 200 addressees over a five-mile area. An automatic feature is its ability to seek a vacant channel and sound the called station's tone.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Brig. Gen. Charles M. Duke, USA, and **Mr. Paul L. Sitton** appointed to Advisory Board, National Capital Transportation Agency by Pres. Johnson. **Brig. Gen. Harley L. Moore, USA,** assigned to Hq., USARV from Hq., USAREUR. **Brig. Gen. Willard Pearson, USA,** assigned to USARV from 101st Abn. Div., Ft. Campbell, Ky. Four USMC brigadier generals recently advanced to that rank are **Michael P. Ryan,** Asst. Chief of Staff, G-2; **Clifford B. Drake,** Director, Marine Corps Reserve; **Earl E. Anderson,** Asst. Deputy Chief of Staff (Air), Office of Deputy Chief of Staff (Air); and **Frank E. Garretson,** Marine Corps Liaison Officer to CNO.

CONTRACT AWARDS

The A. M. Ellis Hosiery Co., Philadelphia, Pa.: $1,155,040 fixed-price contract for 1,600,000 pairs of men's socks. **(DSA)**

Standard Products Co., Cleveland, Ohio: $5,105,050 fixed-price contract for rubber track shoe assemblies for M113 vehicles. **(Army)**

Lear Siegler, Inc., Anaheim, Calif.: $1,799,158 cost-plus-incentive-fee contract for an anti-submarine warfare instrumentation system to be designed, developed, fabricated and checked. **(Navy)**

General Electric Co., Re-Entry Systems Dept., Philadelphia, Pa.: $4,100,000 initial increment to an estimated $40,888,000 contract for research and development on Mark 12 re-entry system. **(Air Force)**